

Bulgaria: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

858 ha

Bulgaria's average annual deforestation exposure in 2021–2023, from **direct trade**

848 ha

Bulgaria's average annual deforestation exposure in 2021–2023, **adjusted for re-exports**

-13%

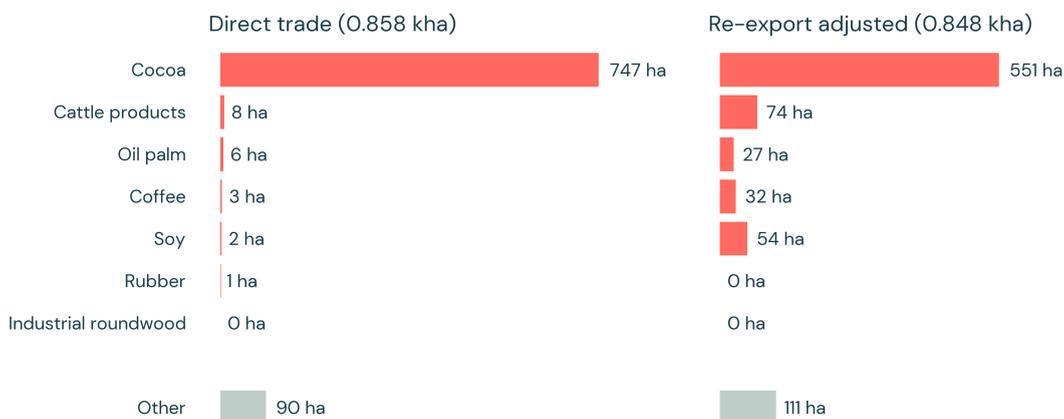
change in total deforestation exposure from 2014–2023, **adjusted for re-exports**

Methods note

This factsheet provides an estimate of the deforestation footprint of Bulgaria's imports, combining data on global bilateral trade and the deforestation associated with 160+ different agricultural commodities. It is intended to help identify the most likely sources, trends and hotspots in global deforestation exposure. Deforestation exposure is likely to be underestimated for commodities that are often imported in more processed forms, particularly wood and rubber products. Please refer to the end of the factsheet for some key considerations, or read the full [methods note](#) for more detail on data sources and limitations.

Deforestation exposure by commodity and trade perspective

Bulgaria's total deforestation exposure was larger from the direct trade perspective (858 ha per year) and smaller from the re-export adjusted perspective (848 ha per year). The re-export adjustment process uses a mass-balance approach to estimate the likely true origins and destinations of products where supply chains involve multiple trade steps. For more information, see the accompanying [methods note](#). Numbers are average annual exposure from 2021 to 2023.



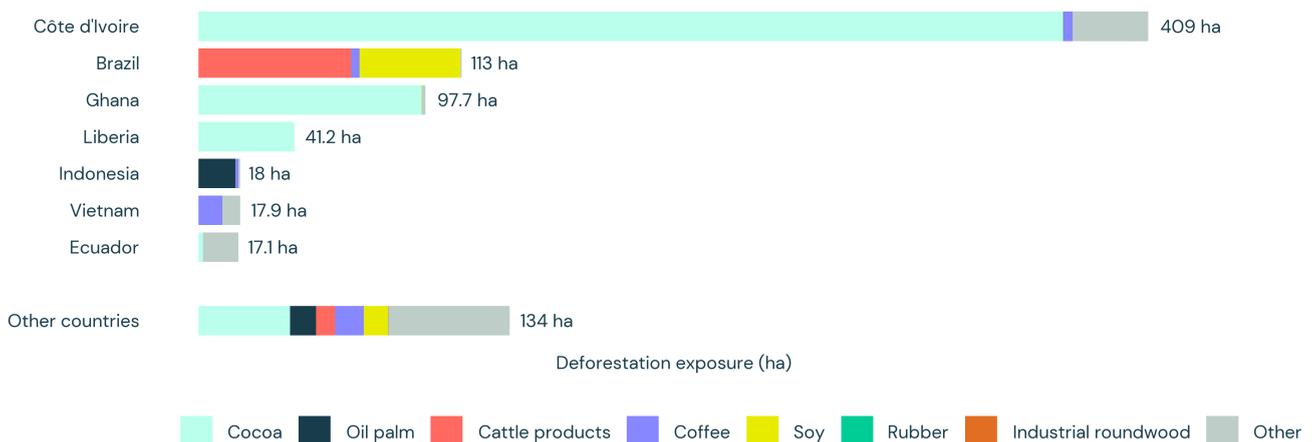
Direct trade deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

From a direct trade perspective, on average between 2021 and 2023, Bulgaria was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire (730 ha, 85.1%), followed by Ghana (25.6 ha, 3%) and Nicaragua (18.9 ha, 2.2%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (747 ha, 87.1%), groundnuts in shell (20.6 ha, 2.4%) and sunflower seed (11.5 ha, 1.3%). In Côte d'Ivoire, the most important commodity for Bulgaria's deforestation exposure was cocoa (720 ha, 98.7%), followed by cashew nuts (9.82 ha, 1.3%). In Ghana, the most important commodity was cocoa (25.6 ha, 100%), followed by industrial roundwood (0.00374 ha, 0%).



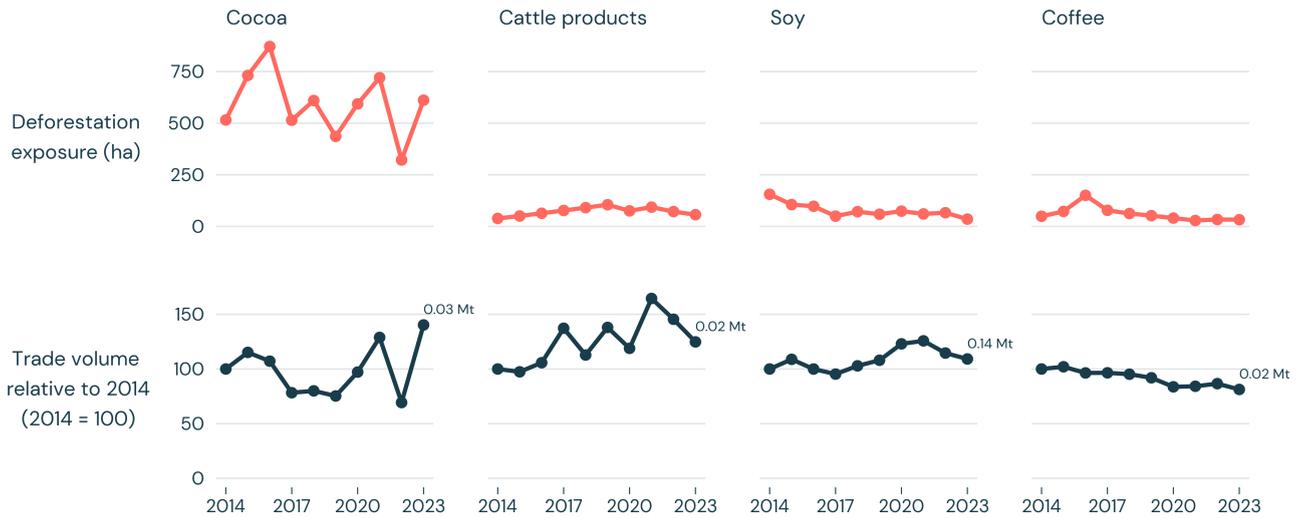
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2021 and 2023, Bulgaria was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire (409 ha, 48.2%), followed by Brazil (113 ha, 13.4%) and Ghana (97.7 ha, 11.5%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (551 ha, 65%), cattle products (73.9 ha, 8.7%) and soy (54 ha, 6.4%). In Côte d'Ivoire, the most important commodity for Bulgaria's deforestation exposure was cocoa (372 ha, 91.1%), followed by cashew nuts (31 ha, 7.6%). In Brazil, the most important commodity was cattle products (65.7 ha, 57.9%), followed by soy (43.5 ha, 38.4%).



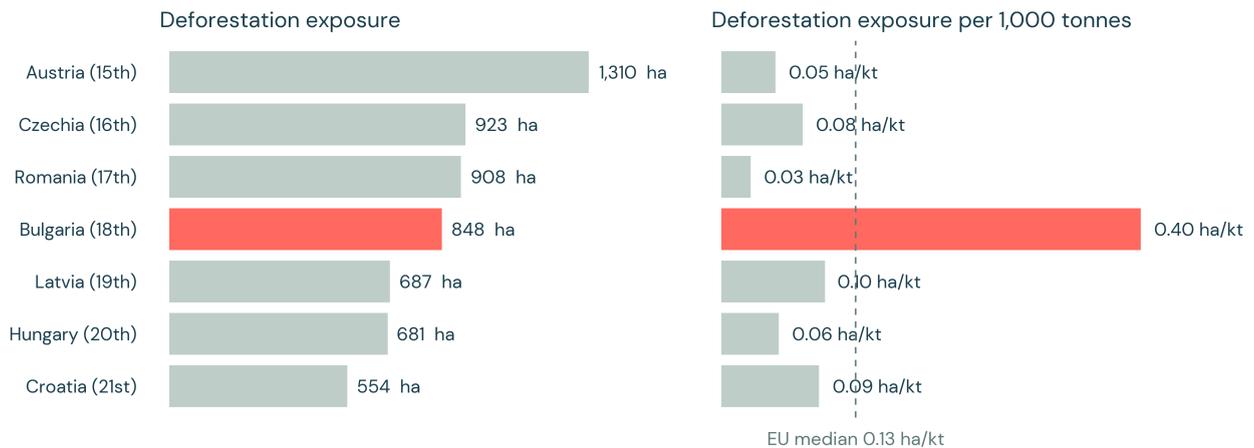
Trends in deforestation exposure and trade volume for top commodities

The following charts show trends in re-export adjusted deforestation exposure and trade volume for the top four commodities (selected based on total deforestation exposure over the last three years of the time series). Overall, Bulgaria's total exposure decreased between 2014 and 2023 by 131 ha, a change of -13%. Of the top seven commodities, soy saw the biggest change over the time series in both absolute and relative terms, with a decrease of -120 ha (-77.3%).



Comparison with deforestation exposure of other EU countries

After adjusting for re-exports, Bulgaria ranks 18th among EU countries for deforestation exposure, accounting for 0.8% of the EU27 total. Looking at the deforestation per 1,000 tonnes of imported material, Bulgaria ranks 2nd at 0.4 ha/kt, higher than the EU median of 0.13 ha/kt.



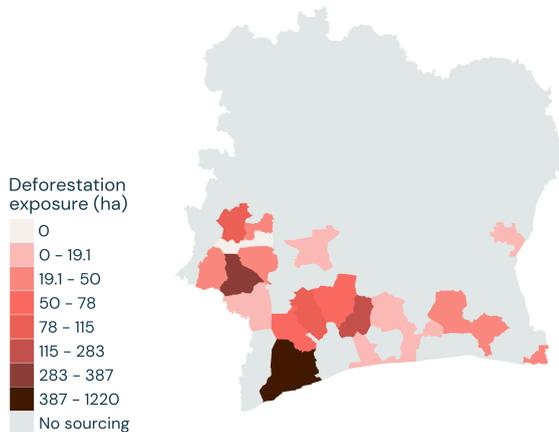
Subnational deforestation exposure

Estimates of subnational deforestation exposure presented in this section will differ from the national-level estimates presented earlier in the factsheet and are not directly comparable. This reflects different definitions of deforestation (in Brazil, for example, the subnational data includes the conversion of any native vegetation, including ecosystems such as the Cerrado), and other methodological differences (e.g. the time periods used to attribute deforestation to commodities can vary substantially between Trase's subnational data and the global dataset used for this factsheet, and can lead to large differences in estimates). See the [methods note](#) accompanying the factsheet for more information.

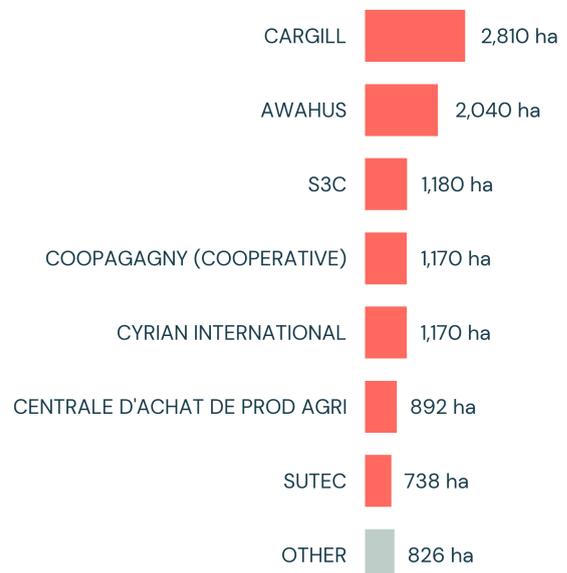
Côte d'Ivoire cocoa: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that Bulgaria was exposed to 10,800 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Côte d'Ivoire cocoa in 2021, the most recent year with subnational data available. Bulgaria's deforestation exposure was highest in the departments of San-Pedro (1,220 ha, 11.3%), Guiglo (386 ha, 3.6%) and Lakota (283 ha, 2.6%). Indirect sourcing accounted for 37.3% (4,040 ha) of Bulgaria's deforestation exposure, where it was not possible to determine the department of production. In total, Bulgaria imported Côte d'Ivoire cocoa from 11 exporters in 2021. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were CARGILL, AWAHUS and S3C, which together accounted for 55.7% of Bulgaria's deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to Bulgaria



Exporter exposure for exports to Bulgaria



Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for Bulgaria's deforestation exposure, this factsheet uses the best available data [linking commodities to deforestation at the global scale](#), based on conversion of natural forests with canopy cover of at least 25%. Due to data availability limitations, we are currently unable to include deforestation exposure estimates for the imports of more processed materials, meaning that deforestation exposure is likely to be underestimated for commodities typically imported in more processed forms – particularly affecting wood and rubber products. We refer you to our [methods note](#) for further details.

Contact us

Mark Titley, Senior Research Associate, Trase / Global Canopy,
m.titley@globalcanopy.org.

Chris West, Co-Director, Trase, chris.west@york.ac.uk.

For methods information, data sources, and frequently asked questions, please refer to the [accompanying methods note](#).

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